

## AN IMPRESSION OF JAPAN

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There were three people from our Nuclear Science group attending the conference and others from Los Alamos and the US that I talked with while in Japan and since returning. All impressions were very positive about Japan and about the conference. I am very glad that we had this experience. My lingering impressions about Japan are that the Japanese people are exceptionally polite, courteous, and trustworthy. We all had a feeling that the streets were safe at any time. There was also the feeling that streets and shops were kept very clean. I have never seen so many vending machines with such a variety of food and drink, and all I tried worked (in the US I would never trust a vending machine to work if it was on the street in a large city). Your trains run on time--apparently to the minute-- and this timing was, in fact, what we used to tell us when we arrived in Mito. Several times during our short stay we needed directions, especially at train stations, and each time some citizen there spent time helping us without our asking. The combination of a moving, dynamic people who still have time to be polite and helpful is remarkable.

Our hotel was excellent in the service and amenities provided.

My wife greatly enjoyed the spouse's program, especially the visit to the home and gardens of the 9th lord of Mito. We both enjoyed our short visit to Kyoto. The Kiyomizu Temple and Nijo Castle were a real pleasure. There is now a picture of the temple on my office door. We both enjoyed meeting you, Prof. Kanda, and Drs. Mizumoto and Katakura again and some of your colleagues for the first time.

I thought the conference was well organized and conducted. We were all impressed with the banquet, and I will always remember the special dinner for the session chairman. Most of my time was spent in discussions with others doing similar work, so I would not feel knowledgeable enough to comment on the general technical presentations, or, in any case, competent enough for such an evaluation. I am aware of the effort it takes to organize a successful conference from watching Phil Young and others who worked on the 1985 Santa Fe conference; several of us here sent a joint letter of appreciation for this after returning.

Our stay was too short and most of our experiences took place at the conference, Mito City, or Kyoto. A longer stay and a wider range of visits would possibly have provided some negative experience, but I doubt that anything would change the overall positive feeling that we returned with.

(編集委員吉田氏への手紙を著者の了承を得て転載)